

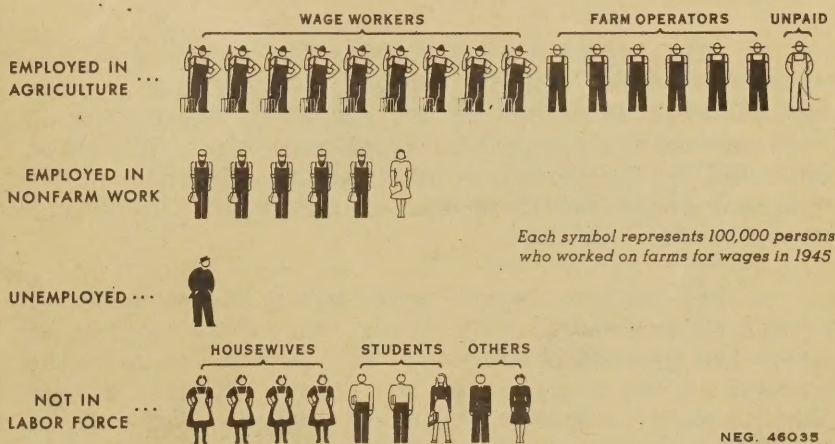
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

EMPLOYMENT *and* WAGES *of the* HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE *in* 1945

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO ITS POPULATION
COMPOSITION

WHAT 3,200,000 PERSONS WHO WORKED ON FARMS FOR
WAGES IN 1945 WERE DOING IN JANUARY, 1946



Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood

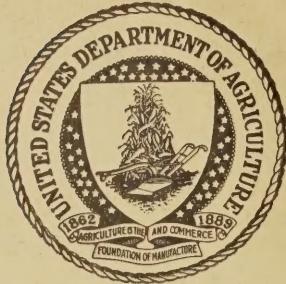
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This report is based primarily on the results of a special survey made in January 1946 for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the Bureau of the Census. This survey was planned to supplement the information obtained by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in national enumerative surveys of farm wages and wage rates conducted during 1945.

Dr. Carl C. Taylor contributed to the formulation of the objectives of this study, which was carried out under his general direction. Dr. Conrad Taeuber also advised in the planning of the study. Special acknowledgment is made to Emmett Welch and Gertrude Bancroft of the Bureau of the Census for handling the survey operations and tabulations.

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EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES OF THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE IN 1945
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS POPULATION COMPOSITION

By Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood

INTRODUCTION

The seasonality of labor demands in agriculture leads to a great expansion of the farm working force in the summer and fall months. On approximately half of the Nation's farms, even the peak labor demands are met by members of the operator's family who assist him on an unpaid basis and by the operator himself working longer hours per week. But on about 28 million farms in the United States, some hired labor is used during the course of a year. These farms vary greatly in the amount of hired labor used during a year. The majority (80 percent) use less than one full man-year of hired labor. On many of the family-sized farms only a few man-days of labor was hired at harvest time. On the largest farms, hundreds of man-years were used.

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Most of the farms which hire labor do not require the same number of workers throughout the year. Thus they provide only intermittent employment for many of their wage workers. For this reason, the number of hired workers reported as employed on farms during any current week—even at the height of the season—is far smaller than the total number of persons who work on farms for wages during some time of the year. Therefore, data as to current employment and wages of hired workers do not give the full picture of the total hired farm working force during a year.

— Accordingly, a special survey was made in January 1946 for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the Bureau of the Census to obtain information on all persons who had done any farm work for wages during 1945. The information was obtained through a sample survey of approximately 25,000 households, farm and nonfarm, with special questions on employment, wages, and perquisites for each person in the household who reported that he or she had done some farm work for wages in 1945. Thus it has been possible to relate the data on time worked and wages earned in farm work during 1945 to important worker characteristics—age, sex, veteran's status, residence, and employment status in January 1946, whether the worker is head of a household, etc. The data provide more light than has hitherto been available on the make-up of the entire hired farm working force during the course of a year.

The survey was restricted to persons 14 years of age and over who were in the civilian population of the United States and not in institutions when the survey was conducted in January 1946. Among such persons, the survey showed that 3.2 million had done some farm work for wages during 1945. In addition, it is estimated that 0.8 million to 1 million other persons did farm work for wages, including children under 14 years of age, persons who entered the armed forces during 1945 and were still in service in January 1946, persons who died during

the year, prisoners of war, imported foreign workers who had left the country by January 1946, inmates of institutions, and some migratory workers who may have been "on the move" during the survey week. This total of 4 million or more persons exceeds greatly the annual average hired farm employment of 2.1 million, as estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and is far above the year's seasonal peak figure, since not all these persons were employed at hired farm work in any single week.

This report is based primarily on the data obtained in the January 1946 special survey of persons who had done some farm work for wages during the year 1945. The nature of the basic data means that in this report the hired farm workers are the focus of attention rather than the farms on which they were employed. Appraisal of the data presented and comparisons with related statistics are to be found in the Appendix.

THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON FARMS FOR WAGES IN 1945

During the last year of World War II, the total number of different persons who worked for wages on farms in the United States was slightly over 4 million. In no other major industry of the country did the wage workers include such widely different groups of people with such different amounts of participation in wage work. For example, regular hired farm hands who were continuously employed on one farm throughout the year made up less than an eighth of the farm wage workers in 1945. Many farm operators worked for wages for other farmers during a part of the year, and many village and urban residents who customarily do nonfarm work spent a few weeks or months at hired farm work. A great many of the women, youths, and old persons who had worked on farms for wages for only short periods during 1945 were neither working nor seeking work in January 1946, but had returned to housework or school or had withdrawn from gainful work for other reasons.

Because of the diversity of the groups included among the farm wage workers in 1945, farm wage and employment conditions are not adequately described by over-all averages. In this part of the report, the composition of the farm wage workers in 1945 is treated with the purpose of identifying and describing the various groups of workers that make up the total hired farm working force, groups whose wages and employment should be studied separately. Detailed information is available for 3.2 million of the total number of persons who did farm wage work in 1945. For simplicity, these 3.2 million persons 14 years of age or older in January 1946 are referred to as the "total" number of farm wage workers during 1945, both in the text and the tables. Supplementary estimates of the numbers of workers not covered in the survey and of their employment and wages during the year are presented in the Appendix.

Occupationally, Who are the Farm Wage Workers? - In a highly seasonal industry such as agriculture, much of the labor supply is drawn from groups who seek gainful work for only a part of the year or who do other types of work during the months when farm work is slack. A good indication of the occupational groups represented among the 1945 farm wage workers is afforded by information on what they were doing in midwinter, after hired farm employment dropped to its lowest level. Of the 3.2 million farm wage workers in 1945, only 935,000 were still working for wages on farms during the second week of January 1946 (table 1). The employment status and occupations of the remaining 2,277,000 persons who did some farm work in 1945 throw a light on the sources of the seasonal increase in hired farm employment which occurs each year.

The largest single group of persons who had worked on farms for wages in 1945 but who were no longer doing so in January 1946 consisted of 589,000 farm operators (including sharecroppers) who reported that they were self-employed on their own farms in January. Almost all of these were men and almost all of them had worked less than half the year at hired farm work in 1945. Many people have thought of hired farm laborers as a class set off and distinct from farm operators. Although it is true that wage workers on farms may differ greatly in social and economic status from the farmers who hire them, and that among hired farm laborers certain groups such as migratory workers may be regarded as a distinct class, nevertheless, many hired farm workers are themselves operators of smaller farms. In the South, especially, many sharecroppers operators also work for wages for their landlords or other operators during a part of the year. A survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics showed that in the South, nearly 300,000 sharecroppers and tenants did some wage work for their landlords during the third week of May 1945. The importance of the group which shifts from farm operator to hired farm worker status in the course of a year is evidenced by the fact that 24 percent of all men who did some work on farms for wages in 1945 reported themselves as self-employed on their own farms in January 1946.

An additional group to be considered along with the farm operators are members of their families. A further indication of the overlapping of the categories of farm workers is that 116,000 persons in farm operators' households who were doing unpaid work on the family farm in January 1946 reported that they had done farm work for wages in 1945. Some of these had worked on other farms and some had been paid wages for work on the family farm during the more active part of the season. The combined number of farm operators and members of their families engaged in unpaid farm work when the survey was made who had worked for wages in 1945 amounted to 705,000. This number was three-fourths as great as the number of 1945 farm wage workers who were still engaged in such work in January 1946.

The second largest group among those who had been farm wage workers during some part of 1945 but who were not hired farm workers in January 1946 were employed in nonagricultural industries. There were 563,000 such workers, and 150,000 of these were employed in manufacturing industries. About 90,000 were employed in each of three other industry groups: domestic service, in which most of the workers involved were women; forestry, fishing, mining

and construction combined (here most of the workers involved were men); and wholesale and retail trade. The remainder were engaged in miscellaneous industries. Very few of these workers who were employed in nonfarm occupations in January had worked as much as 6 months at farm wage work in 1945. The data suggest that most persons who spend part of the year at hired farm work and part at nonfarm work spend the greater part at nonfarm work. The same situation may not hold for farm operators who also do nonfarm work.

The remaining group of 1945 farm wage workers who were still in the labor force in January 1946 were 76,000 unemployed workers. Though this group was relatively small in January 1946, when the total level of unemployment in the United States was only 2,290,000, the size of the group in prewar years when unemployment was high must have been much larger. It should be remembered that the picture of the total hired farm working force here given is for a year when employment levels were high and opportunities to get jobs were abundant, despite the temporary or permanent disemployment which occurred in some industries due to the ending of the war.

Far more of the 1945 farm wage workers than the number unemployed reported that they were neither employed nor looking for work during the second week of January 1946 and hence were classified as not in the labor force. The most important groups included were 371,000 women who were engaged in their own home housework, 203,000 boys and 125,000 girls who were in school and not working, and 227,000 other persons who were neither working nor looking for work for a variety of reasons. Altogether these persons who had withdrawn from the labor market in midwinter numbered 933,000, a total about equal in size to the 1945 farm wage workers who were still working on farms for wages in January 1946.

These findings if interpreted with a time reversal suggest the groups from which the hired farm working force of 1945 was drawn. To a midwinter low of around 1 million were added about 700,000 farm operators and members of their families who work on their own farms without pay in January. Another 700,000 came from housewives and students. Nearly 600,000 left nonagricultural work for at least a short period of farm work. About 200,000 came from the groups of elderly persons and others who do not seek work in midwinter. 1/

Where Did the Workers Live? - The great majority of all persons who do hired farm work live on farms the year round. Seventy percent of the 3.2 million persons who did some farm wage work during 1945 were still living on farms in midwinter (table 2). Persons living in rural areas but not on a farm made up the next most important group, about 20 percent of the total. These included persons living in hamlets and villages up to 2,500 population, and also many persons living in the "string-town" developments which stretch out along the sides of highways in many parts of the country. Only about 10 percent of the 1945 farm wage workers were living in cities or towns in January 1946. Some of these had lived on farms while they were doing hired farm work in 1945, others had been furnished transportation to and from farms on days when they worked, and still others had supplied their own transportation to and from the farm.

1/ An additional 800,000 to 1,000,000 farm wage workers in 1945 are not included in these estimates. The largest single group among those excluded were children under 14 years of age.

How Many Were Heads of Households? - Approximately 1.4 million of the 3.2 million farm wage workers in 1945 were heads of households, most of whom were men. Nearly half of the 1.8 million farm wage workers who were not heads of households lived in the 1.4 million households with a farm wage worker as head, and the remainder lived in an additional 10.9 million households. In all, 2.3 million households in January 1946 contained one or more members who had worked at farm wage work during the preceding year. These households containing farm wage workers were in urban and rural areas in about the same proportions as the workers themselves. They included about 1.5 million rural-farm households, many of them households of farm operators who also worked for wages, 0.5 million rural-nonfarm households, and nearly 0.3 million urban households.

How Many Women? - Among the 3.2 million farm wage workers in 1945, there were 837,000 women and girls. Women and girls made up 25 percent of all the farm resident workers and 29 percent of those not living on farms. The great majority of the women and girls were not household heads and they constituted over 40 percent of all farm wage workers who were not household heads.

How Many Veterans? - About 160,000 of the males who reported farm wage work during 1945 indicated that they were veterans of World War II. Veterans of World War II who did some farm work for wages during 1945 constituted only about 5 percent of the total hired farm working force for the year. However, the monthly surveys of the Bureau of the Census have shown rapid increases in the employment of veterans on farms during the first half of 1946.

How Old Were the Workers? - The hired farm working force of 1945 was much younger in age composition than were most other occupational groups. Boys and girls between 14 and 17 years of age made up more than a fifth of all farm wage workers covered in the survey (table 3). Approximately 200,000 girls and 465,000 boys 14 to 17 years old worked for wages on farms during 1945. About 400,000 of these boys and girls were living on farms in January 1946, and many of these may have worked for wages only on their family's farm during the year.

The average age of female hired workers was lower than that for male workers. Forty-seven percent of all the females were under 25 years of age, compared with 32 percent of all males. Nearly 1.2 million workers of both sexes were in the age group 14 to 24. Less than half as many were in the next older group aged 25 to 34, and in each succeeding 10-year age group the numbers became smaller. About 200,000 of the farm wage workers were 65 years old or over. Almost all of these were men.

How Long Did They Work? - The seasonality of agricultural labor demands results in the employment of many workers for only short periods of work. About two out of every five of the 1945 farm wage workers covered in the survey spent less than 25 days at hired farm work during the year (table 4). Thirty-four percent of the males and 54 percent of the females who reported some farm wage work during 1945 worked fewer than 25 days. In contrast, only 23 percent of the males and an inappreciable percentage of the females reported what might be taken as full-time work at hired farm labor during the year - 250 days or more. Out of an estimated 3.1 million workers, based on the number surveyed who reported on the number of days worked, only 528,000 reported working 250 days or more at hired farm work and nearly four-fifths of these were males living on farms. An additional 243,000 persons reported working between 150 and 249 days of hired farm work. Thus of the total hired farm working force, only 771,000 or 25 percent spent as much as half of the year (150 days) in hired farm work. Among men, the corresponding percentage was 32 percent; among women it was only 6 percent. Of the 75 percent of all farm wage workers in 1945 who worked less than 150 days, 2,005,000 worked less than 75 days and only 327,000 worked between 75 and 150 days.

Where Did They Work? - Over two-thirds (69 percent) of the 1945 farm wage workers did hired work on only one farm during the course of the year (table 5). The proportion who did wage work on only one farm during the year was a little higher for men than for women, for farm residents than for nonfarm residents, and for workers who did at least 75 days of farm wage work than for those who worked less than 3 months during the year. Hired farm workers did not often fill out their period of employment by getting work on a number of different farms during 1945. Only 552,000 wage workers reported working on three or more farms during the year and in this group only 126,000 or 23 percent had more than 3 months of farm wage work during the year. It must be remembered that approximately 250,000 prisoners of war and imported foreign workers who worked on farms during 1945 are not included in these estimates and because such workers were transported from one place to another as they were needed, the great majority of them worked on three or more farms during the year. Such workers probably replaced a considerably larger number of migratory workers who performed the same sorts of work in prewar years, because of the fuller utilization of seasonal workers in 1945 made possible by an extensive farm labor program of routing, transporting and placing workers.

It seems likely that the estimated 552,000 hired workers who were employed on three or more farms during 1945 (exclusive of foreign workers and prisoners of war) and who include most of the domestic migratory farm workers is less than the number of such workers in prewar years. The labor supply situation in 1945 differed from that of the 1930 decade when many people became migratory workers because there was no other way to get employment. The smaller farm labor supply in 1945 also meant that hired workers tended to be employed for longer periods on one farm. Hence, they individually found it less necessary to seek work on as many as three farms. The existence of farm wage ceilings on certain crop operations in various areas also contributed to a probable reduction in 1945 of the number of wage workers who worked on three or more farms compared with the prewar situation.

Who Are the Farm Wage Workers? A Resume. - In popular thinking and writing two sorts of hired farm laborers have been featured - the migratory laborer who follows the crops, is employed for a short period on one farm and then moves on to another, and the regular hired hand who has steady employment on one farm. The latter often lives in the farmer's house if he is single or in a house furnished by the farmer if he is married. It is true that both of these types were still present in the hired farm working force of 1945, but each type represents a rather small proportion of all farm wage workers. The survey did not provide data for making precise estimates of the number of these two groups but it does indicate that they were not large in relation to the total. Even if most of the workers, exclusive of imported workers and war prisoners, who did hired work on three or more farms during 1945 were migratory, there were not as many as a half million of these covered in the survey. That they numbered substantially fewer than this is suggested by the fact that only 126,000 of them worked more than 3 months in farm wage work during the year. ^{2/} With regard to "the regular hired man," only 404,000 males living on farms reported 250 days or more of farm wage work during the year and only 357,000 of these worked on only one farm.

Migratory farm workers and regular hired hands taken together probably made up considerably less than a fourth of the 1945 farm wage workers covered in the special survey. Then who were the people who made up the rest of the 3.2 million farm wage workers in 1945? In addition to regular farm laborers and migratory workers, they were small farmers, sharecroppers, and members of their families who worked for wages on other farms, sons, daughters and wives of farm operators who paid cash wages to family members, local school youths and housewives who do a few weeks or months of farm work in summer; persons in nearby villages and towns who work most of the year in nonfarm jobs. Hired farm laborers in 1945 were not, on the whole, one single distinct class, but were overlapping and intermingled with the low-income groups of farm operators - especially in the case of sharecroppers in the South - and with nonagricultural wage workers, especially those in rural areas. As about 70 percent of the people who worked for wages on farms in 1945 were farm residents, the wages paid out to them, though an expense to the employing farmers, were in the main a source of income to other people living on farms.

How Large is the Farm-Laborer Population of the United States? - For many uses it is desirable to divide up the total population of the United States into those dependent upon agriculture and those dependent upon nonagricultural occupations. No completely satisfactory basis exists for making such a division and the chief reason is that many families get some income from both sources. It is even more difficult to identify the part of the population which derives its income from hired farm labor, because most farm wage workers do hired farm work for only a part of the year and more than half of them are not heads of households. For these reasons the delineation of a "farm-laborer" population of the United States poses serious problems.

^{2/} It is likely that the survey underenumerated some migratory workers who were in process of moving during the survey week. An estimate of the number excluded is given in the Appendix.

However, the survey does provide information on the size of the population living in households which reported one or more farm wage workers in 1945. In all, there were 2,320,000 such households with a total population of 10,193,000 persons (table 6). Included in these households were more than 3 million children under 14 years of age and 7 million persons 14 years of age and over. In the rural-farm population, 1,555,000 households reported one or more farm wage workers. These households contained 6,989,000 persons in January 1946, or 27 percent of the population living on farms.

Because so many farm wage workers worked for such short periods during the year, a population somewhat more closely identified with hired farm work is made up of the 3,743,000 persons living in the 856,000 households which reported 100 days or more of farm wage work done by household members during 1945. Even in these households, however, the major source of income was frequently from nonfarm work. In only half of them, or 439,000 households, were as many as 300 days of farm wage work reported during the year.

These figures illustrate the difficulty of delineating a farm labor population. This is the case because the occupational status of hired farm laborer is not maintained by most farm wage workers except for a part - and usually a short part - of the year. Also the facts that a majority (56 percent) of the 1945 farm wage workers were not household heads and that nearly one-third of all farm wage workers lived in households with heads who did not do any farm wage work in 1945 further duplicate the problem of allotting dependents to the occupation of "hired farm laborer." 3/

WAGES EARNED BY VARIOUS GROUPS OF HIRED FARM WORKERS IN 1945

The average wages earned from farm work during 1945 varied greatly for the various groups of workers which have been described. For example, girls living on farms and attending school in January 1946 who had done some hired farm work during 1945 had earned an average of \$74, while men who were still working as hired farm laborers in January 1946 had earned during 1945 an average of \$779 in total farm wages including the value of major perquisite items furnished them. A number of factors cause these wide differences in annual wages among different groups of hired farm workers. Listed in their probable order of importance, these factors are: the amount of time spent in farm work during the year, regional differences in prevailing wage levels which are reflected in certain groups that show regional concentrations, the type of farm work performed and experience and ability of the workers, which are associated with age and sex differences. The survey data provide the basis for indicating how much of

3/ The problems of identifying a population "dependent" upon a specified occupation are not peculiar to the occupation of hired farm laborer. They are exaggerated in the case of hired farm laborers, however, because of the great proportion who shift their occupational status during the course of the year and because the majority of the farm wage workers are not household heads.

the difference in annual wages between groups is due to differences in time worked during the year. But they do not permit analysis by regions, by experience and ability of the worker, or by type of farm work done.

Majority are Part-Year Workers But Major Time Input by Full-Year Workers.

Of the total number of different persons engaged in hired farm work, those who work for a very small fraction of the year are in the majority. But the picture is reversed when the total labor input or total wage expenditure is considered, as the majority of the man-days of hired work is done by full-year workers and as they receive over half of the total wages spent for hired labor. The 65 percent of all farm wage workers in 1945 who did less than 75 days of farm wage work put in only 16 percent of the total man-days of hired labor and received only 18 percent of the total cash wages paid farm laborers (table 7). In contrast, the 17 percent of the total hired farm working force who worked 250 days or more at hired farm work during 1945 put in 57 percent of the total man-days and received 54 percent of the total cash wages.

Thus the bulk of hired farm work is done by full-year workers and for certain types of annual wage comparisons with industrial workers, averages and distributions for full-year workers are more appropriate than similar measures for all hired farm workers.

On the other hand, in an industry which requires such a tremendous number of short-time workers to meet its seasonal labor demands, the employment afforded such workers and the wages paid them are very important in analyses of employment and wages in the industry.

Short-time Workers Get Higher Cash Wages Per Day. -- The increase in the demand for hired labor as the agricultural season progresses is usually accompanied by a rise in farm wage rates. Thus persons who do hired farm work for only a short seasonal period during the year average higher daily wages than those who work year-round. In 1945, those who worked less than a month averaged \$4.20 a day in cash wages, those who worked more than a month but less than half the year averaged \$3.35, and those who worked 6 months or more averaged \$2.75 (table 8). The differences show up even more clearly in the averages computed separately for male workers. Men working less than one month averaged \$5 a day; men working 6 months or more averaged \$2.85.

Women Get Less Per Day Than Men. -- The average daily wages of women were lower than those of men, in spite of the fact that more of the women were very short-time workers. The average cash daily wage of \$2.40 for women was 23 percent under the average of \$3.10 for men. Other surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics have shown that an important factor in the lower national average wages for women is that a much larger proportion of the Nation's women who are hired farm workers are in the South where farm wages average lower than in other major regions of the country. Differences in average daily cash wages of men and women are even greater for short-time workers than for all workers. For example, women working less than one month in 1945 average \$2.80 a day compared with \$5 for men, and women working one to six months averaged \$2.70 compared with \$3.55 for men.

Many Workers with Low Annual Wages.— The very short time worked during the year by a large proportion of farm wage workers affected the total wages earned by individuals from farm work. A great majority of the 1945 farm wage workers were only part-year workers, so that 40 percent of the male workers and 71 percent of the female workers earned less than \$100 in cash wages for farm work during the year (table 9). Only 7 percent of all workers were paid as much as \$1,000 in cash wages for farm work during the year and only 1 percent as much as \$2,000. Most of the workers in the lowest brackets were part-year workers, however.

The distribution by annual cash wages of male workers who were employed on farms for 250 days or more gives a better indication of the earnings afforded wage workers from full-time work in agriculture. Half of this group of farm wage workers made less than \$815 in cash wages during the year and only 6 percent made \$2,000 or more. Thus, the \$2,400 a year ceiling set in the general farm wage stabilization program was not nearly approached by the great majority of full-year hired farm workers.

Wages During Year Highest for Male Household Heads. — Farm wage workers who were living on farms in January 1946 had averaged \$328 for 100 days of work during the preceding year in cash wages and in value of lodging, meals, and farm products furnished without charge by the operator (table 10). (The average values of these items for all workers and for workers who reported receiving them are presented in the next section. For convenience, the amount of cash wages plus the value of these major perquisites which were received is hereafter referred to as "total wages.") This was slightly higher than the averages of \$324 for rural-nonfarm workers and \$301 for workers living in urban places in January 1946. The higher yearly wages earned by farm residents was due wholly to their higher average number of days of work during the year, 100 days compared with 93 days for rural-nonfarm and 73 days for urban workers. On a daily basis, workers living in urban areas fared best with an average total wage of \$4.10 a day, rural-nonfarm workers next with \$3.50 a day, and rural-farm workers with \$3.30 a day.

Among male workers living on farms, household heads had the same average number of days of work as other household members, about 120 days, but because they had nearly a dollar a day higher wages, their wages earned during the year averaged \$451, compared with \$355 for other male workers. Among the urban male workers, household heads averaged about the same number of days of work, 121 days, but other household members averaged less than half this much. In all the residence groups, female workers averaged only about a third as many days worked per year as males and about a fourth as much wages.

Ages 35 to 44 Peak Earning Period for Men. — Men between the ages of 35 and 44 had the highest average wages on a daily basis, \$4.30 per day (table 11). Each age group younger than this had average daily wages progressively lower, dropping to \$2.50 per day for boys 14 and 15 years old. Similarly each age group above the peak group had progressively lower earnings, with men over 65 averaging only \$2.85 per day. Similar differentials in hourly earnings for male

hired farm workers have been observed to hold in the various regions of the country and in different seasons of the year. 4/ The differences suggest that farmers place value on skill and experience in their laborers as well as on physical strength. Men 25 to 34 had average daily wages only 91 percent as great as those aged 35 to 44 and average daily wages for men 20 to 24 were only 76 percent as great. On the other hand, the young men 20 to 24 had the highest average number of days of farm work during the year, 164 days. The somewhat lower average number of days worked during the year for older men was due in part to the presence in the older age groups of many farm operators who spent most of the year working on their own farms.

Farm Operators Paid Highest Wages Per Day. - When the 1945 farm wage workers are classified according to what they were doing in January 1946, there are great differences in the average farm wages earned during the year by the various groups, but these are due more to the amount of time worked than to differences in daily wages. Nevertheless, among male workers, those who were self-employed on their own farms in January had earned from their work on other farms significantly higher daily wages than the other groups. These farm operators averaged \$4.25 per day, but their average duration of hired employment during the year was only 42 days (table 12). Next highest in average daily wages were persons doing nonfarm work in January; these averaged \$3.95 per day in farm wages and 71 days of hired farm work in 1945. The lowest daily wages earned by any group of males was \$2.65, the average for boys attending school in January. These school youth had worked an average of only 38 days at hired farm work during the year.

Girls attending school in January 1946 had the highest daily wages of any group among females, \$2.80 as compared with \$2.75 for women engaged in their own home housework, \$2.10 for women still employed in agriculture in January 1946, and \$2.00 for women working at nonfarm jobs in January 1946. The group of females who averaged the greatest amount of time worked and wages earned from farm work during 1945 were the 54,000 who were still employed as wage workers on farms in January 1946. They averaged 119 days of hired farm work and \$246 total wages for farm work during the year. The group with next longest average employment and next highest annual wages were the 150,000 employed in nonagricultural work in January 1946, over half of whom were working as domestic servants. During 1945 they had averaged 47 days of hired farm work and total wages for farm work of \$93.

PERQUISITES RECEIVED BY HIRED FARM WORKERS

Agriculture by no means stand alone among industries in often providing perquisites for wage workers—goods and services as a part of remuneration for labor, in addition to cash wages. Perhaps the occupation for which this practice

4/ See Reports Nos. 4 and 7 in Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

is most generally prevalent is domestic service, in which the great majority of workers get some of their meals furnished by the employer without charge and many have lodging provided also. Furnishing of meals to workers with no charge or at reduced prices is also common in restaurants and other eating establishments. Furnishing of housing at only nominal cost to workers is done by some employers, very frequently by textile manufacturers in the South. In addition to food or housing, some nonagricultural employers provide their workers with various sorts of services—schools, hospitals, parks, and other educational, health, and recreational facilities,—especially in one-industry towns which are owned largely or entirely by a company. Many retail establishments grant their employees discounts on merchandise bought in their stores.

Because of the nature of agricultural operations, only a small proportion of the country's farms can be adjacent to centers of population. Therefore, some farm operators provide housing or board and lodging on the farm for their workers, especially their regular workers. Many supply transportation without charge to and from the farm and the worker's residence each day, especially when a considerable number of seasonal workers are employed. Because the major items produced in agriculture are food products, it is natural that wage agreements sometimes specify certain quantities of food or other products of the farm to be furnished the worker without charge. As some hired workers have gardens or livestock, or operate small farms themselves, various privileges such as use of the employer's workstock, implements and machinery, pasture or barn may enter into the wage agreement.

For many years, no information has been obtained on a nation-wide basis regarding the frequency with which farmers furnish perquisites to their hired workers or the value of goods and services furnished. ^{5/} This has led to divergent opinions as to the importance of such practices as they affect both the total cost of hired labor to the farmer and the total remuneration of hired farm workers.

^{5/} The 1920 Census of Agriculture obtained the value of rent and board provided hired workers by farmers. In 1927, a national mail questionnaire survey was made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which provided data on perquisites with the results published in J. C. Folsom, Perquisites and Wages of Hired Farm Laborers, U. S. Dept. Agr., Tech. Bul. 213, 1931. Until the Bureau of Agricultural Economics farm wage enumerative surveys in 1945, no data on perquisites had been obtained on a national basis since 1927, except for a very small sample of farm-laborer families in the Family Spending and Saving in Wartime survey, the results of which are published in Louis J. Ducoff, Wages of Agricultural Labor in the United States, U. S. Dept. Agr., Tech. Bul. 895, July 1945. Additional information as to perquisites furnished hired farm workers by major geographic regions will be published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in a forthcoming report of the series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture.

Most Hired Workers Get No Major Perquisites. - Only 29 percent of the 1945 farm wage workers reported that they were furnished housing, meals, or farm products without charge by farm operators who employed them (table 13). The percentage was higher for men than for women, 35 percent compared with 10 percent. Among males still living on farms in January 1946, 38 percent reported receiving housing, meals, or farm products during the year, while only 32 percent of urban males and 27 percent of rural-nonfarm males did so. The proportion of workers furnished one or more of these major perquisite items was lower for those workers who worked on three or more farms in 1945, 20 percent compared with 31 percent of those who worked on one or two farms.

An estimated 865,000 farm wage workers were furnished housing and/or meals for at least a part of 1945. Nearly three-fourths of these (613,000) were men still living on farms in January 1946. Of the workers furnished housing and/or meals, 200,000 were also provided food products without charge by the operator. These were probably mainly among those furnished a house or some other type of lodging without meals. Food products from the farm were also given to another 50,000 workers who did not get housing.

Workers Furnished Perquisites Also Earn More in Cash Wages During the Year. - The 916,000 workers who were furnished housing, meals, farm products, or some combination of these, as a part of their remuneration for hired farm work reported an average value of \$146 for major perquisite items received during 1945 (table 14). When added to the average cash wages of \$476 earned at hired farm work by these workers, this results in average total wages of \$622 from farm work during the year. Workers who received perquisites also averaged higher cash earnings from farm work during the year than those who did not have any of the major perquisite items provided by the farm operator. Their average cash wage of \$476 during 1946 was more than twice as great as the average of \$202 for workers not reporting perquisites. The higher average cash wages for workers who also received perquisites held both for workers who worked on only one or two farms during the year and for those who worked on three or more farms, although the difference was considerably smaller for the latter group. The higher cash wages earned during the year by workers who received perquisites was due chiefly to the fact that perquisites are more frequently received by regular workers who had longer periods of employment at hired farm work during the year. This relationship did not hold among the 1945 male farm wage workers who were living in urban areas in January 1946.

Rural-farm males who received major perquisites had higher yearly cash wages and value of perquisites than nonfarm males or females. Their average cash wages of \$552 and average value of major perquisites of \$175 amounted to total farm wages of \$726 during the year. For female workers who received one or more of these major perquisite items the average cash wage was \$123, the average value of perquisites \$50, and the average total wages was only \$173. A substantial part of the difference between men and women in total wages earned at farm work during the year is due to the smaller average amount of time put in at hired farm work by women.

Average Value of Major Perquisite Items Received. - The receipt by some hired farm workers of housing, lodging, meals, or farm products without charge from the farm operator means that their cash wage rates are not directly comparable with those for industrial workers who receive no perquisites from employers. Allowances need to be made for the noncash remuneration which goes along with the wage rate paid such hired farm workers. For more than two-thirds of all hired workers who did not report receiving any one of the major perquisite items listed, however, no important allowance needs to be made in comparing their cash wages with those of industrial workers. For the 916,000 workers who did report one or more of the major perquisite items furnished, the value of such items received during the year as estimated by the workers averaged \$146. This amount was equal to 31 percent of the cash wages received for farm work during the year.

The 865,000 workers who received housing and/or meals during the year had an average value of \$125 added to their cash wages by the housing or meals furnished by the farm operator (table 15). The much smaller number of workers furnished farm products by the operators who employed them received an average value of products of \$104 in 1945. The average value of housing and meals was greater for men living on farms in January 1946 than for nonfarm men or for women, but even for this group it was only \$150 for the year.

These valuations of perquisite items were obtained from the workers or a person in the worker's household reporting for the worker. The instructions specified that valuations of perquisites furnished should be made on the basis of rents or prices the worker would have had to pay if he had rented or purchased the same services or products of the same quality in the locality where he worked.

When the total value of major perquisite items furnished by farmers to their hired workers during 1945 is related to the total number of persons who did farm wage work during the year, the average values become much smaller. On the average, persons who worked on farms for wages during 1945 received in addition to cash wages only \$9 worth of farm products and \$35 worth of lodging and meals, or a total of \$44 as noncash wages during the year. The value of these major perquisite items furnished hired workers was 15 percent as great as the cash wage expenditures of farmers, as reported by workers covered in this survey.

The proportion of male household heads who reported one or more of these major perquisite items was slightly greater than that for other males, 36 percent as compared with 33 percent (table 16). Among male workers living on farms who received some perquisites, however, a higher percentage of those who were not household heads than of the household heads received \$100 or more in value. The combination of lodging and meals is received more frequently by unmarried men who are not household heads, and the average value for those who got lodging and meals was probably higher than for those who were provided housing but not meals.

Perquisites go Mainly to Regular Workers. - The majority of regular farm workers receive one or more of the major perquisite items of lodging, meals, and farm products. Seventy-one percent of all hired workers who had 250 or more days of farm wage work in 1945 reported receipt without charge from the farm operator of one or more of these items, in contrast with only 14 percent of those who worked for less than one month (table 17). The workers with longer periods of employment also received a higher average value of perquisites during the course of the year. Of the 900,000 workers who received some major perquisite items and reported on time worked, the 350,000 males who worked 250 days or more made up 39 percent, but they received 73 percent of the value of lodging, meals, and farm products reported. Those who received housing or lodging and meals among this group of year-round workers reported values which averaged \$225 during the year, while the smaller number who received farm products averaged \$139 in noncash income from this source during the year.

Among Year-Round Workers, Perquisites Compensate for Lower Cash Wages. - When the amount of time worked during the year is not considered, workers receiving perquisites average higher annual cash wages from farm work than those not provided the major perquisite items. When very short-time workers and women are excluded, however, workers without perquisites have higher cash wages for comparable periods of employment than those furnished major perquisite items. Cash wages of males employed 25 to 150 days in 1945 averaged \$226 for those without perquisites, compared with \$205 for those who received major perquisites. Among regular workers the differences were greater; in the group of males who worked 150-249 days at farm work during the year, those not furnished major perquisites averaged \$654, compared with \$497 for those furnished major perquisites; in the group who worked 250 days or more, the corresponding averages were \$1,025 and \$881. However, in the group of year-round male workers, those who worked 250 days or more, the average value of major perquisite items more than offset the difference in cash wages, bringing their total to \$1,157, or 13 percent more than the total wages of those not receiving perquisites.

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Note: Estimates presented in the tables which follow are based on a sample survey of 25,000 households. They are consequently subject to sampling error, which is proportionately larger for classifications including relatively small numbers of individuals. For this reason no estimates are presented for classes estimated as including fewer than 50,000 individuals, and the estimates presented for classes approaching this lower limit in size should be used with awareness of their relatively larger sampling variation.

Table 1.—Farm wage workers in 1945 by employment status in January 1946, by sex and for males by duration of hired farm employment in 1945, United States ^{1/}

Employment status in January:			Males			Females		
1946 of persons who	Total		Less than 150 days	150 days				
worked for wages on		Total	days 2/	or more				
farms in 1945			Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent	Number:Percent
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
Total	3,212	100	2,375	100	1,657	100	718	100
In the labor force	2,279	71	2,035	86	1,329	80	706	98
Employed in agriculture	1,640	51	1,548	65	924	56	624	87
Wage or salary workers	935	29	881	37	295	18	586	82
Self employed workers	589	18	568	24	530	32	3/	—
Unpaid family workers	116	4	99	4	99	6	—	—
Employed in non- agriculture	563	18	413	18	346	20	67	9
Forestry, fishing, mining, and construction	88	3	85	4	75	5	3/	—
Manufacturing	150	5	135	6	117	7	3/	—
Transportation	54	2	50	2	3/	—	3/	—
Trade	90	3	69	3	58	4	3/	—
Domestic service	96	3	2/	—	2/	—	83	—
Other	85	2	61	2	55	3	2/	—
Unemployed	76	2	74	3	59	4	3/	—
Not in the labor force	933	29	340	14	328	20	3/	—
Home housework	378	12	3/	—	3/	—	—	—
In school	328	10	203	9	199	12	3/	—
Other	227	7	130	5	122	8	3/	—

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

^{2/} Includes 9,000 males for whom information on number of days worked was not obtained.

^{3/} Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 2.-Farm wage workers in 1945 by January 1946 residence, by sex for household heads and other workers, and by World War II veteran's status for males, United States 1/

Sex, veteran's status and whether household head	Total		Rural-farm		Rural-nonfarm		Urban	
	Thou- sands	Number:Percent	Thou- sands	Number:Percent	Thou- sands	Number:Percent	Thou- sands	Number:Percent
Both sexes	3,212	100	2,228	100	623	100	361	100
Male	2,375	74	1,679	75	465	75	231	64
Veterans (World War II)	157	5	116	5	2/	-	2/	-
Nonveterans	2,218	69	1,563	70	442	51	213	59
Female	837	26	549	25	158	25	130	36
Household heads	1,398	44	973	44	280	45	145	40
Male	1,311	41	925	42	258	41	128	35
Female	87	3	2/	-	2/	-	2/	-
Other workers	1,814	56	1,255	56	343	55	216	60
Male	1,064	33	754	34	207	33	103	29
Female	750	23	501	22	136	22	113	31

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

2/ Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 3.--Farm wage workers in 1945 by age and sex, for household heads and other workers, United States ^{1/}

Age and whether household head	Both Sexes		Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Thou- sands		Thou- sands		Thou- sands	
<u>Total workers</u>						
Total 14 years and over	3,212	100	2,375	100	837	100
14-15	360	11	249	10	111	13
16-17	305	9	214	9	91	11
18-19	144	4	84	3	60	7
20-24	375	12	238	10	137	16
25-34	582	18	428	18	154	18
35-44	563	18	416	18	147	18
45-54	407	13	335	14	72	9
55-64	272	9	229	10	2/	-
65 and over	204	6	182	8	2/	-
<u>Household heads</u>						
Total 14 years and over	1,398	44	1,311	55	87	10
Under 25	86	3	82	3	2/	-
25-34	315	10	293	12	2/	-
35-44	366	11	343	15	2/	-
45-54	289	9	270	11	2/	-
55-64	192	6	180	8	2/	-
65 and over	150	4	143	6	2/	-
<u>Other workers</u>						
Total 14 years and over	1,814	56	1,064	45	750	90
14-15	360	11	249	10	111	13
16-17	305	9	214	9	91	11
18-19	140	4	82	3	58	7
20-24	293	9	158	7	135	16
25-34	267	8	135	6	132	16
35-44	197	6	73	3	124	15
45-54	118	4	65	3	53	6
55-64	80	3	2/	-	2/	-
65 and over	54	2	2/	-	2/	-

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

^{2/} Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 4.--Farm wage workers in 1945, by duration of hired farm employment in 1945, by sex and by January 1946 residence, United States 1/

Days of hired farm wage work in 1945	Males				Females			
	Total	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	
	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	Number:Pct.:Thou-sands	
Total reporting on days worked	3,103 100 2,281 100 1,638 100 643 100 822 100 544 100 278 100							
Under 25	1,207 39 767 34 604 37 163 25 440 54 290 53 150 54							
25-74	798 26 533 23 323 20 210 33 265 32 171 31 94 34							
75-149	327 10 262 11 178 11 84 13 65 8 2/ 8 2/ -							
150-249	243 8 201 9 129 8 72 11 2/ - 2/ 4 2/ -							
250 and over	528 17 518 23 404 24 114 18 2/ - 2/ - 2/ -							

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945. The difference between the 3,103,000 shown in this table and the 3,212,000 shown in previous tables represents the number of workers for whom information on number of days worked was not obtained.

2/ Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 5.-Farm wage workers in 1945 by number of farms worked on during year, for males and females, by January 1946 residence, and for workers classified by duration of hired farm employment in 1945, United States ^{1/}

Sex, January 1946 residence and days of farm wage work in 1945	Total		Worked on one farm		Worked on two farms		Worked on three or more farms ^{2/}	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Thou- sands		Thou- sands		Thou- sands		Thou- sands	
Total	3,212	100	2,218	69	442	14	552	17
Male	2,375	100	1,657	70	296	12	422	18
Female	837	100	561	67	146	17	130	16
Total	3,212	100	2,217	69	443	14	552	17
Farm	2,246	100	1,579	71	301	13	366	16
Nonfarm	966	100	638	66	142	15	186	19
Total	3,212	100	2,217	69	443	14	552	17
Less than 75 days ^{3/}	2,114	100	1,384	66	320	15	410	19
75 days or more	1,098	100	833	76	123	11	142	13

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

^{2/} Includes 52,000 workers for whom information on number of farms worked on was not obtained.

^{3/} Includes 109,000 workers for whom information on number of days of farm wage work was not obtained.

Table 6.-Households containing a farm wage worker in 1945, population of these households under and over 14 years of age, for all such households and for those reporting 100 and 300 days or more of farm wage work in 1945, by January 1946 residence, United States ^{1/}

Residence and days of farm wage work in 1945 reported for household	:Number:Population in households			
	: of :	:Under 14:	14 years	
	:house-	: Total:	years	: old and
	:holds :	: of age :	over	
	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>
	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>
Total	2,320	10,193	3,125	7,068
Rural-farm	1,555	6,989	2,166	4,823
Rural-nonfarm	496	2,087	632	1,455
Urban	269	1,117	327	790
Reporting 100 days or more farm wage work	856	3,743	1,236	2,507
Rural-farm	604	2,677	902	1,775
Rural-nonfarm	174	760	241	519
Urban	78	306	93	213
Reporting 300 days or more farm wage work	439	1,983	561	1,422
Rural-farm	346	1,539	416	1,123
Rural-nonfarm	62	304	92	212
Urban	2/	140	53	87

^{1/} Estimates relate to the population living in households which contained persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946 who did farm work for wages in 1945.

^{2/} Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 7.--Percentage distribution of farm wage workers in 1945, days worked, and cash wages, for workers classified by duration of hired farm employment in 1945, by sex, United States 1/

Days of farm work in 1945	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	Workers	Days worked	Cash wages	Workers	Days worked	Cash wages	Workers	Days worked	Cash wages
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total <u>2/</u>	100	100	100	73	89	91	27	11	9
Under 25 days	39	4	6	25	3	5	14	1	1
25-74	26	12	12	17	8	8	9	4	4
75-149	10	11	13	8	9	11	2	2	2
150-199	4	6	6	2	4	5	<u>3/</u> 2	<u>3/</u> 4	<u>3/</u> 2
200-249	4	10	9	4	10	9			
250-299	4	10	11	4	10	11			
300 and over	13	47	43	13	45	42			

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

2/ Total covered in survey who reported both on time worked and on cash wages.

3/ Includes a small number of workers reporting more than 200 days of work.

Table 8.-Average number of days worked at farm wage work during 1945, average cash farm wages earned for the year and per day worked, for farm wage workers in 1945, by duration of hired farm employment in 1945, by sex, United States 1/

Days of farm work in 1945	Both sexes		Males		Females	
	Average days: Average of farm : wages		cash farm: Average days: Average of farm : wages		cash farm: Average days: Average of farm : wages	
	: in 1945 : Total		in 1945 : Total		in 1945 : Total	
	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars
Total 2/	95	284	115	353	39	93
Under 25	11	45	11	54	11	31
25-149	59	197	62	220	53	143
150-249	195	524	199	571	174	290
250 and over	321	914	321	923	2/	3/

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

2/ Total covered in survey who reported both on time worked and on cash wages.

3/ Averages not shown because fewer than 50,000 female workers estimated as working 250 days and over.

Table 9.-Farm wage workers in 1945 by cash wages earned at farm work during year for males and females and for males working 250 days or more at hired farm work in 1945, United States 1/

Cash wages	Total		Males		Females	
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
	Thou- sands	Percent	Thou- sands	Percent	Thou- sands	Percent
Total reporting on cash wages 2/	3,057	100	2,242	100	815	100
Under \$25	555	18	312	14	243	30
25-99	923	30	591	26	332	41
100-199	449	15	301	13	148	18
200-399	403	13	348	16	55	7
400-599	211	7	184	8	4/	4/
600-999	298	10	288	13	4/	4/
1,000-1,399	122	4	122	5	32	4
1,400-1,999	63	2	63	3	20	2
2,000-2,499	4/	-	4/	-	12	1
2,500 and over	4/	-	4/	-	-	-

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

2/ The difference between the 3,057,000 shown in this table and the 3,212,000 shown in previous tables represents those workers for whom information on amount of cash wages was not obtained.

3/ The difference between the 501,000 shown in this table and the 518,000 shown in table 3 represents those workers for whom information on amount of cash wages was not obtained.

4/ Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 10.—Average number of days worked at farm wage work during 1945 and average total farm wages 1/ for 1945 farm wage workers by January 1946 residence, by sex, and for male household heads and other males, United States 2/

Table 11.-Average number of days worked at farm wage work during 1945 and average total farm wages 1/ earned for the year and per day worked, for farm wage workers in 1945, and for males, by age, United States 2/

Age of worker	Both sexes			Males		
	Average		Average	Average		Average
	days of	farm wages	days of	days of	farm wages	days of
	farm	For	Per	farm	For	Per
	wage	1945	day	wage	1945	day
	work in	work in	worked	work in	worked	worked
	1945 <u>3/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>5/</u>	1945 <u>3/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>5/</u>
	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Dollars
Total - 14 years and over	96	324	3.40	116	407	3.50
14-15	43	106	2.45	46	115	2.50
16-17	64	166	2.60	79	200	2.55
18-19	77	234	3.05	96	304	3.15
20-24	118	372	3.15	164	536	3.25
25-34	114	421	3.70	139	540	3.90
35-44	100	412	4.10	124	535	4.30
45-54	116	387	3.35	131	449	3.45
55-64	101	331	3.30	110	375	3.40
65 and over	100	281	2.80	107	303	2.85

1/ Total farm wages as used here represent the sum of the cash wages and the value of any housing, lodging, meals or farm products furnished the worker without charge. The total does not include any earnings in 1945 from nonfarm work or self-employment.

2/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

3/ These averages differ slightly from those in table 8 because the averages in this table were based only on the number reporting number of days worked at farm wage work in 1945. Therefore 109,000 workers for whom information on number of days worked was not reported were excluded.

4/ Based on number who reported total wages.

5/ Based on average number of days worked and average total farm wages.

Table 12.-Average number of days worked at farm wage work during 1945, average total farm wages 1/
earned for the year and per day worked, for farm wage workers in 1945, by employment
status in January 1946, United States 2/

Employment status in January 1946 of persons who worked for wages on farms in 1945	Both sexes			Males			Females		
	:Average:Average total 1/			:Average:Average total 1/			:Average:Average total 1/		
	:days of: farm wages			:days of: farm wages			:days of: farm wages		
	Number	Dollars	Per	Number	Dollars	Per	Number	Dollars	Per
	1945	4/	5/	1945	4/	5/	1945	4/	5/
	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Dollars
Total 1945 farm wage workers	96	324	3.40	116	407	3.50	40	97	2.45
Employed in agriculture	143	494	3.45	147	515	3.50	80	166	2.10
Wage and salary workers	222	747	3.35	229	779	3.40	119	246	2.05
Self-employed workers	41	174	4.25	42	179	4.25	22	42	1.90
Unpaid family workers	28	94	3.35	26	97	3.75	-	-	-
Employed in nonagriculture	64	229	3.60	71	280	3.95	47	93	2.00
Unemployed	75	248	3.30	76	252	3.30	-	-	-
Not in labor force	35	98	2.80	39	117	3.00	32	87	2.70
Home housework	35	97	2.75	-	-	-	35	96	2.75
In school	35	93	2.65	38	101	2.65	29	81	2.80
Other	34	105	3.10	41	137	3.35	24	63	2.65

1/ Total farm wages as used here represent the sum of the cash wages and the value of any housing, lodging meals or farm products furnished the worker without charge. The total does not include any earnings in 1945 from nonfarm work or self-employment.

2/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

3/ These averages differ slightly from those in table 8 because the averages in this table were based only on the number reporting number of days worked at farm wage work in 1945. Therefore, 109,000 workers for whom information on number of days worked was not reported were excluded.

4/ Based on number who reported total wages.

5/ Based on average number of days worked and average total farm wages.

Table 13.-Number of farm wage workers in 1945 receiving specified major perquisite items, by sex, January 1946 residence for males and by number of farms worked on, United States 1/

Sex and January 1946 residence of worker, and number of farms worked on	Farm wage work--: Reporting major:Reporting lodging:Reporting farm			:ers in 1945 : perquisites : and/or meals : products furnished			:Percent : :Percent : :Percent			:Number:of all : Number:of all : Number:of all			:farm wage : :farm wage : :farm wage			:workers : :workers : :workers			Thou- sands		
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
Total workers	3,212	100	916	29	865	27	250	8													
Males	2,375	100	834	35	795	33	231	10													
Rural-farm	1,679	100	635	38	613	36	174	10													
Rural-nonfarm	465	100	125	27	113	24	4/	-													
Urban	231	100	74	32	69	30	4/	-													
Females	837	100	82	10	70	8	4/	-													
Total workers	2/ 3,212	100	3/ 916	29	865	27	250	8													
Worked on 1 or 2 farms	2,661	100	813	31	769	29	242	9													
Worked on 3 or more farms	500	100	101	20	95	19	4/	-													

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946 who did farm work for wages in 1945.

2/ Including 52,000 workers for whom information on number of farms worked on was not obtained.

3/ Including 2,000 workers for whom information on number of farms worked on was not obtained.

4/ Estimated as less than 50,000.

Table 14.-Average wages and value of major perquisites received by farm wage workers in 1945,
by sex, January 1946 residence for males, and by number of farms worked on,
United States ^{1/}

Sex and January 1946 residence of worker and number of farms worked on	All workers			Workers reporting major perquisites			Workers not reporting		
	Average:			Average:			Average:		
	total	cash	value of	total	cash	value of	total	cash	value of
	farm	farm	major	farm	farm	major	farm	farm	major
wages	perquisite:			wages			perquisite:		
	2/	items	2/	items	2/	items	2/	items	2/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total workers	324	284	44	622	476	146			202
Males	407	354	58	666	511	155			261
Rural-farm	408	344	70	726	552	175			206
Rural-nonfarm	402	372	30	511	407	104			358
Urban	413	396	26	415	340	75			425
Females	97	92	5	173	123	50			89
Total workers	324	284	44	622	476	146			202
Worked on 1 or 2 farms	336	292	50	653	497	156			196
Worked on 3 or more farms	262	249	14	390	324	66			229

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

^{2/} Total farm wages as used here represent only the sum of the cash wages and the value of any housing, lodging, meals, or farm products furnished the worker without charge. The total does not include any earnings in 1945 from nonfarm work or self-employment. The averages shown in the first column are not exactly equal to the sum of the averages shown in the next two columns because they are based on slightly different numbers of workers reporting cash wages and value of major perquisite items.

Table 15.-Average value of major prerequisite items for all farm wage workers in 1945 and for workers receiving specified prerequisites, by sex, January 1946 residence for males and number of farms worked on, United States ^{1/}

Sex and January 1946 residence of worker and number of farms worked	:Major prerequisite items:Lodging and/or meals:			Farm products		
	:Average:Average value :Average value:Average value:			:Average:Average value:Average value:		
	:value :for workers :value :for workers :value :for workers			:value :for workers :value :for workers		
	:for all: reporting :for all: reporting :for all: reporting			:for all: reporting :for all: reporting :for all: reporting		
	:workers: items	:workers: items	:workers: items	:workers: items	:workers: items	:workers: items
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total workers	44	146	35	125	9	104
Males	58	155	47	131	11	111
Rural-farm	70	175	58	150	12	114
Rural-nonfarm	30	104	19	75	11	114
Urban	26	75	20	64	5	67
Females	5	50	4	50	1	30
Total workers	44	146	35	125	9	104
Worked on 1 or 2 farms	50	156	40	132	10	106
Worked on 3 or more farms	14	66	13	67	1	48

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

Table 16.-Distribution of farm wage workers in 1945 by value of major perquisites received, for male household heads and other male workers, by January 1946 residence, United States 1/

Value of any lodging, meals or farm products furnished without charge by employers	Male household heads					Other male workers						
	Total		Farm		Nonfarm	Total		Farm		Nonfarm		
	: Number:	Pct.:	: resident:	: resident:	: resident:	: resident:	: resident:	: resident:	: resident:	: resident:		
	Thou- sands	Number:	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands		
Total	1,311	100	933	100	378	100	1,064	100	759	100	305	100
\$0	808	62	547	59	261	69	694	65	478	63	216	70
\$1 or more	475	36	367	39	108	29	346	33	267	35	79	26
\$1-24	108	8	82	9	4/	-	89	8	60	8	4/	-
\$25-99	168	13	121	13	4/	-	79	8	4/	-	4/	-
\$100-199	88	7	76	8	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-
\$200-399	79	6	61	7	4/	-	77	7	76	10	4/	-
\$400 and over	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-	53	5	50	7	4/	-
Not reporting 2/	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-	4/	-

- 1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.
- 2/ Includes some urban-farm residents.
- 3/ Includes those reporting some perquisites received but not reporting the amount and also those who did not report as to whether they received any perquisites.
- 4/ Less than 50,000.

Table 17.-Percentage of workers receiving major perquisites, average cash farm wages, and average value of major perquisites received, for farm wage workers in 1945 and for males, by duration of hired farm employment in 1945, United States ^{1/}

Days of farm work in 1945	Both sexes										Males									
	Workers reporting major perquisites					Workers not reporting major perquisites					Workers reporting major perquisites					Workers not reporting major perquisites				
	: Average:					: Average:					: Average:					: Average:				
	Percent:	Average:	value	Percent:	cash	Percent:	Average:	value	Percent:	cash	Percent:	Average:	value	Percent:	cash					
	of	cash	of	of	wages	of	cash	of	of	wages	of	cash	of	of	wages					
	all	farm	major	all	per	all	farm	major	all	per	all	farm	major	all	per					
	workers:	wages	perqui-	workers:	worker	workers:	wages	perqui-	workers:	wages	perqui-	workers:	wages	perqui-	workers:					
	:	:	site	:	per	:	site	:	per	:	site	:	per	:	per					
	:	:	items	:	year	:	items	:	year	:	items	:	year	:	year					
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars					
Total 2/	30	476	146	70	202	37	511	155	63	261										
Under 25	14	70	16	86	41	18	81	18	82	48										
25-149	24	200	67	76	196	30	205	71	70	226										
150-249	46	479	125	54	561	53	497	129	47	654										
250 and over	71	873	277	29	1,014	71	881	276	29	1,025										

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1946, who did farm work for wages in 1945.

^{2/} Includes persons who did not report number of days worked.

APPENDIX: METHOD OF SURVEY, APPRAISAL OF DATA AND COMPARISONS WITH RELATED STATISTICS

Method of Survey. - The national sample of approximately 25,000 households enumerated to obtain data for this study were the same as those used in the regular "Monthly Report on the Labor Force" Survey of the Bureau of the Census in January 1946. The estimates presented are subject to sampling error, especially in classifications with relatively few individuals involved. Also, the information on time spent in hired farm work and wages earned at farm work during 1945 is subject to errors in memory. Independent check data are presented later for appraising the estimated national totals of hired labor time input and wage expenditures obtained from data reported in this survey.

In addition to the regular questions asked each month by the Bureau of the Census as to personal characteristics, employment status, etc., the following questions were asked for each person 14 years of age and over in the households included in the survey, both in urban and rural areas:

: If "Yes" in (21), fill columns (22) to (26)							
Did this	:	:	:	Estimated value of specified	:	:	:
person do:	Number	:	Total	items received without charge	:	Number of	:
any farm	: of days	:	cash	from farm operators, in	:	different	:
work for	: on which	:	wages	addition to cash wages,	:	farms	:
cash	: farm work	:	earned	during 1945	:	worked on	:
wages	: was done	:	from	:	:	for wages	:
during	: for cash	:	farm	Housing or	:	during	:
1945?	: wages	:	work	lodging and	:	1945	:
(Yes or	: in 1945	:	during	meals	:	(exclude	:
no)	:	:	1945	:	:	meals)	:
(21)	: (22)	:	(23)	: (24)	:	(25)	: (26)

In the instructions to enumerators, the following definition of farm work was given: "Farm work is work done on any farm, in connection with the production, harvesting, threshing, preparation for market, or delivery to market of agricultural products. Work done off the farm for a farmer by his hired farm worker such as trips to town to buy feed, seeds, fertilizer, or handling other matters involved in running the farm business is to be considered farm work. Such work as the repair of farm buildings, machinery, etc., performed by a farm wage worker should be considered farm work when it is done along with the type of work specified above."

Other definitions and instructions given to enumerators which are relevant to the interpretation of the information obtained are as follows. For column 22 the number of days asked for was the number of different calendar days on which some farm wage work was done and not the number of full-time days. For column 23 the instructions specified that the entry should be the gross earnings before any deductions and should therefore include any amount deducted because of withholding tax, etc. For columns 24 and 25 the instructions specified that

estimated valuations of perquisite items were to be obtained from the workers or a person in the worker's household reporting for the worker. Valuations of perquisites furnished were to be made on the basis of rents or prices the worker would have had to pay if he had rented or purchased the same services or products of the same quality in the locality where he worked.

Coverage of survey. -- As explained in the text of the report, the estimate of 3.2 million persons 14 years of age and over who did some farm wage work during 1945 obtained from this survey is not conceptually comparable with current cross-sectional employment figures and it excludes certain classes of persons who did farm wage work during the year but were not covered in the survey. The most nearly comparable figure available from previous surveys but relating to all persons who did farm work rather than to just those who did such work for wages, is an estimate of 12.4 million persons 14 years of age and over who did some farm work during 1943, with the same classes of persons excluded as are excluded from the 3.2 million figure for 1945. ^{1/} However, it should be recognized that many persons do farm work on both a paid and unpaid basis during the course of a year, and that if these two estimates related to the same year, subtraction of the hired worker figure from the total would tend to understate the number of persons working as farm operators or unpaid members of their families during some periods of the year, as many of these also did some hired farm work.

Estimates relating to excluded groups. -- In order to compare the aggregate man-days of hired farm work reported in the January 1946 survey with an independent estimate of the man-days of hired work used on farms in 1945, the size of the excluded groups and their labor input at hired farm work during 1945 have been estimated from various sources of information. Similarly, estimates of wages earned by the excluded groups have been derived, with their average daily wages estimated from those of groups covered in the survey in the case of some groups and from independently obtained information for other groups. This affords an estimate of the total wages paid hired farm laborers by farmers in the United States in the year 1945, and this can be compared with an independent estimate of wage expenditures by farmers during 1945.

The estimates based on the January 1946 survey are shown in table 18, along with the estimates for groups of workers excluded from the survey. No entirely satisfactory basis was developed for estimating the number of migratory workers who were not covered in the survey for reasons set forth in footnote 3 of table 18, and the allowances indicated for this group are very rough. When the estimates for all the excluded groups are combined with the estimates obtained in the January survey, the totals indicate that there were 4,219,000 different persons who worked on farms for wages in 1945, that these persons did 403 million man-days of hired farm work during the year, and that they were paid \$1,358 million in cash wages for hired farm work during the year.

Estimates of hired labor input and wage costs from BAE enumerative surveys made in 1945. -- An independent estimate of the total number of man-days of hired labor used by farmers in the United States during the year 1945 is available from the national enumerative farm wage survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the latter part of September 1945. This survey included 20,000 farm

^{1/} Ducoff, Louis J. and Hagood, Margaret Jarman, The Farm Working Force of 1943, Bur. Agr. Econ., March 1944.

operators in 158 counties and provided estimates of the amount of hired labor which would be used on their farms during the year. As the great majority of hired labor input occurs during the first 9 months of the year, those reports obtained in the last week of September were mainly based on what had already happened and only to a smaller extent on the farmers' expectation for the last 3 months of the year. Only 3.5 percent of the farmers interviewed were unable or unwilling to report on the total man-days of hired labor which had been used and was to be used on the farm during the year. Estimates were derived for this small group on the assumption that they would use as much on the average as other farms in the same region in the same cropland-size group and producing the same principal products. The aggregate input of hired labor during 1945, according to estimates from the September 1945 survey was 486 million man-days.

From this estimate of hired labor input and the data on cash wage costs per day of hired labor obtained from enumerative surveys in March, May, and September 1945, together with interpolated figures for January 1945, and January 1946, an estimate was made of the aggregate expenditures by farm operators for cash wages to their laborers in 1945. Estimates were developed separately for each of four major regions of the country - Northeast, North Central, South and West. The average cash wage per day during 1945 for all hired farm workers in each region (whether paid by month, week, day, hour, or at a piece rate) was estimated by weighting the averages found in the survey at different seasons of the year by the corresponding hired employment levels as shown by the enumerative surveys.^{2/} The average cash wages per day were then multiplied by the total man-days of hired labor used in each region to compute the total cash expenditures for hired labor. From these enumerative farm wage survey results it is estimated that the total cash expenditures for 486 million man-days of hired farm labor in 1945 amounted to \$1,839 million.

An additional independent estimate of aggregate cash expenditures for farm labor in 1945 is available from the series of surveys conducted at the end of each quarter of 1945 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which are identified as the Quarterly Survey of Agriculture. These surveys included approximately 2,500 farm operators in a general-purpose national sample of 101 counties. Among other items of information, the cash expenditures during the preceding quarter for hired labor (excluding custom work) was obtained from the farm operator. Data for the four quarters of 1945 provide a basis for a preliminary estimate of \$1,670 million cash expenditures for hired labor (excluding custom work).

Comparisons of estimates from January 1946 survey with estimates from 1945 surveys - The estimate of 403 million man-days of hired labor input during 1945 (shown in table 18) based primarily on reports from the workers themselves or from some member of their households compares with an estimate of 486 million man-days derived from reports of farmers in the September 1945 enumerative survey. This difference may be due in part to the possible omission from the January survey estimate of some persons who do custom work - particularly farm operators or contractors doing custom work - who did not consider their operation of their machinery on another man's farm as "farm wage work" to be classified in the same

^{2/} The average cash wage per day is actually the weighted average cash wage cost per day during each of the survey weeks as it is obtained by weighting the average daily wage cost of workers paid all types of rates (month, week, day, hour, and piece) by the number of days worked.

category as that of common hired farm labor. In the September survey, however, the farm operator undoubtedly reported the man-days of custom work he had hired or expected to hire along with the other man-days of hired labor used or used on his farm during the year. The difference may be due in part to an underestimation of the migratory workers excluded in the January survey, as the data available are not adequate for making a precise estimate. Another factor which may have operated to give a lower estimate from the January survey is that midwinter weather conditions lead to a higher noninterview rate in the more isolated rural areas, and households in such areas doubtless contain a higher proportion of persons who work on farms for wages than households in other areas. The difference may also be due in part to some upward bias in the farm operators' reports in the September survey on the amount of labor he expected to hire during the last 3 months of the year, as expectations tend to exceed what actually turns out to be the case.

The estimates of aggregate farm wages show a wider discrepancy than those of aggregate hired labor input. Aggregate cash wages paid by farmers to their hired labor amounted to \$1,358 million when estimated from the January survey of workers as compared with \$1,839 million when estimated from the farm wage enumerative surveys of farms operators made in 1945 and with \$1,670 million from the Quarterly Survey of Agriculture. The factors described above which make for a higher estimate of labor input from the September 1945 farm wage survey than from the January survey would also tend to make the derived estimate of cash wage expenditures higher (even though only the labor part of the custom work included was evaluated in developing the estimates of aggregate cash wages from the September 1945 survey). In addition to the factors already mentioned, farmers may tend to overstate the level of wages they are paying, while workers may understate the level of wages they are receiving.

However, as an estimate of the total cash wage expenditures during 1945 by farmers in the United States, the estimate of \$1,839 million derived from the September 1945 farm wage survey and of \$1,670 million derived from the Quarterly Survey of Agriculture are undoubtedly better than the estimate of \$1,358 million derived from the January 1946 survey. Both of the former were based on direct expansion of reports from a sample drawn from all farm operators and do not involve supplementary estimates for excluded groups as does the latter. For this reason, no wage aggregates for all workers derived from the January 1946 survey have been presented in the body of this report, as information was not available for making adequate estimates of time worked and wages earned by some of the excluded groups.

The two estimates derived from the two series of enumerative surveys of farm operators made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are in relatively close agreement. The estimate of \$1,839 million from the farm wage surveys includes an allowance of the cost for labor in connection with custom work while the estimate of \$1,670 million from the Quarterly Survey of Agriculture by definition excludes the cost of custom work. Estimates of the total cash expenditures by farm operators for custom work in 1945 will be available from the Quarterly Survey of Agriculture at a later date and will permit more precise comparisons of these two estimates.

Table 18.-Preliminary estimates of the total number of different persons who worked on farms for wages in 1945, total man-days of hired farm work done, and total farm wages received, United States

Type of worker	:Number of:Man-days of hired:Average wages per :Aggregate wages			:different: farm work done : day for hired :for hired farm			: persons : in 1945 : farm work in 1945 : work in 1945			: who :Average: :Total cash : :Total cash :			:worked on:number : Total :and value : :and value :			: farms : of : man-days:of lodging,:Cash :of lodging,:Cash			: for : days : worked :meals, and/:wages :meals, and/:wages			:wages in : per : by : or farm : : or farm :			: 1945 :person : group : products : : products :			Thousands		Million		Million																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												

1/ The January 1946 survey made by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics covered persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population, January 1946. The total number of farm wage workers shown here includes an estimated 6,000 males and 1,000 females as farm wage workers among those from whom information as to farm wage work was not obtained in the survey.

(Continued)

2/ Preliminary estimates for the excluded groups of number of different persons who worked on farms for wages in 1945, total man-days of hired farm work done, and total farm wages received are based on information from various sources as indicated below for the three most important groups.

Children under 14: Number estimated on assumption that hired labor participation rates for children 10 through 13 would be slightly more than half as great as for children 14 and 15 years old as observed in survey; average time worked and average daily wages assumed to be slightly lower than those for children 14 and 15 years old.

Prisoners of war: Number estimated from monthly numbers as published in Farm Labor; total man-days of labor supplied by War Department; average daily cash wages estimated from BAE enumerative farm wage survey in September 1946 with adjustments for regional distribution as reported in Farm Labor.

Imported foreign workers: Number of workers and total man-days of labor as estimated by the Labor Branch, PMA, USDA; (See W. C. Holley, "Farm Labor Problems and Programs," The Agricultural Situation, February 1946) average daily cash wages estimated from BAE enumerative farm wage survey in September 1946.

3/ The January 1946 survey may not have covered migratory workers satisfactorily for the following reasons: (1) many migratory workers may have actually been in the process of migrating during the survey week and hence have been excluded from the sample of resident households; (2) migratory workers often live in labor camps, trailers, etc.; which are more difficult to sample satisfactorily than ordinary residences, and hence are not regularly included in the MRLF sample; (4) because migratory workers are distributed very unevenly and tend to be concentrated in certain special crop areas of the country, an estimate of their number from a national population survey of a sample of 25,000 households may be subject to much greater sampling error than other similar sized groups of farm wage workers distributed more evenly over the country.

Data obtained from the September 1945 BAE enumerative farm wage survey afford preliminary indications that there were probably a minimum of 500,000 domestic migratory farm workers in 1945. Indirect data from the January survey indicate that probably less than 300,000 were covered (on the rather liberal assumptions that all of the 147,000 persons who worked on 3 or more farms and for 75 days or more during the year were migratory workers, and that a group of equal size who worked on only 1 or 2 farms or for less than 75 days on 3 or more farms were also migratory). From these indirect indications, it appeared that an allowance of at least 200,000 should be made. No precision is attached to this estimate, however. It is possible that the true figure might be up to twice as great as the minimum allowance estimated.

